

CULTURAL RESOURCES on the PUBLIC LANDS



Imagine. . .

- • • ancient caves and camp sites on Ice Age shores where time-forgotten hunters lived in a far different world;
- • • dwellings painstakingly built into cliffs where prehistoric people lived and worked the land — people who mysteriously disappeared;
- • • the pounding hoofbeats of a Pony Express horse and rider furiously galloping to the next station;
- • • a bustling 1860s mining camp where pioneers rushed to stake claims and fulfill their dreams to strike it rich.

Much of what we know of our country's past has been learned from the cultural resources found on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These cultural resources comprise a vast

"Desolation, these ruined settlements of a lost people . . . Rabbits dodge about the towers, lizards whisk in and out of the gaping windows; the only sound is the far-off coo of a wild dove, and upon all the sun beats down out of a cloudless sky."

Alfred V. Kidder, Archaeologist, 1907

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

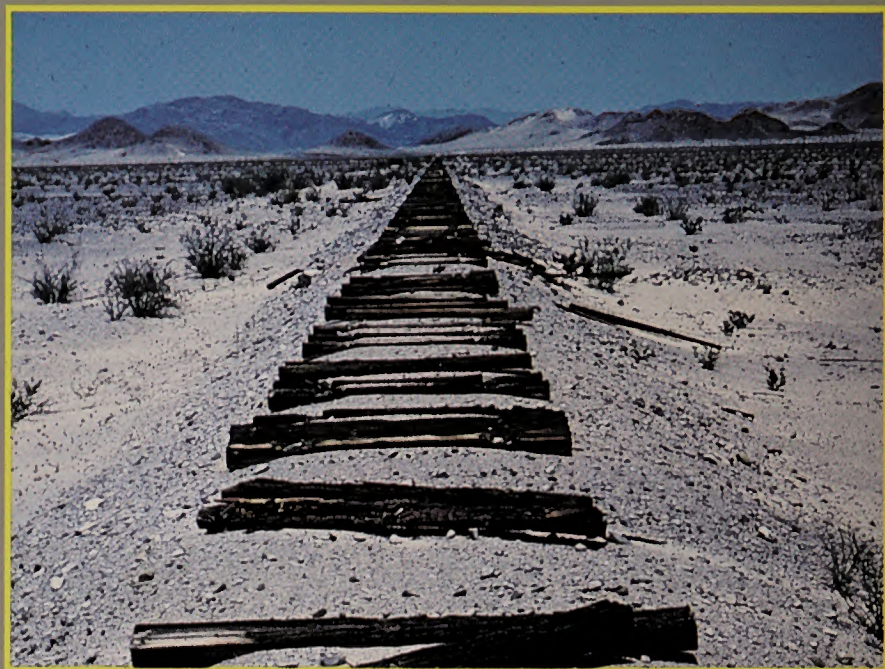
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textbook on American history. They reflect centuries of dreams and struggles by people who sought to make a life in lands often harsh and challenging. These lands can tell stories of hardship and failure as well as perseverance and success.

Prehistoric hunters and gatherers opened a New World more than 10 thousand years ago. These first Americans fashioned stone tools and weapons to harvest game that provided food, clothing and other necessities. Their descendants also used the earth's own raw materials to construct ingenious dwellings so well adapted to their environment. They produced the beautiful ceramics, textiles and other



objects of stone, bone, wood and fiber that excite and inspire our imaginations today.

The public lands also tell the story of more recent arrivals — European, African and Asian peoples. They reflect the ambitions and actions of explorers and settlers, day laborers and farm families, soldiers and trappers, railroad moguls, mining magnates and cattle barons

Today the public lands hold America's largest, most varied, and scientifically most important body of cultural



"To add to the horrors of the surroundings one man was bitten on the ankle by a venomous snake. Although every remedy was tried upon the wound, his limb had to be amputated with the aid of a common handsaw."
Catherine Haun



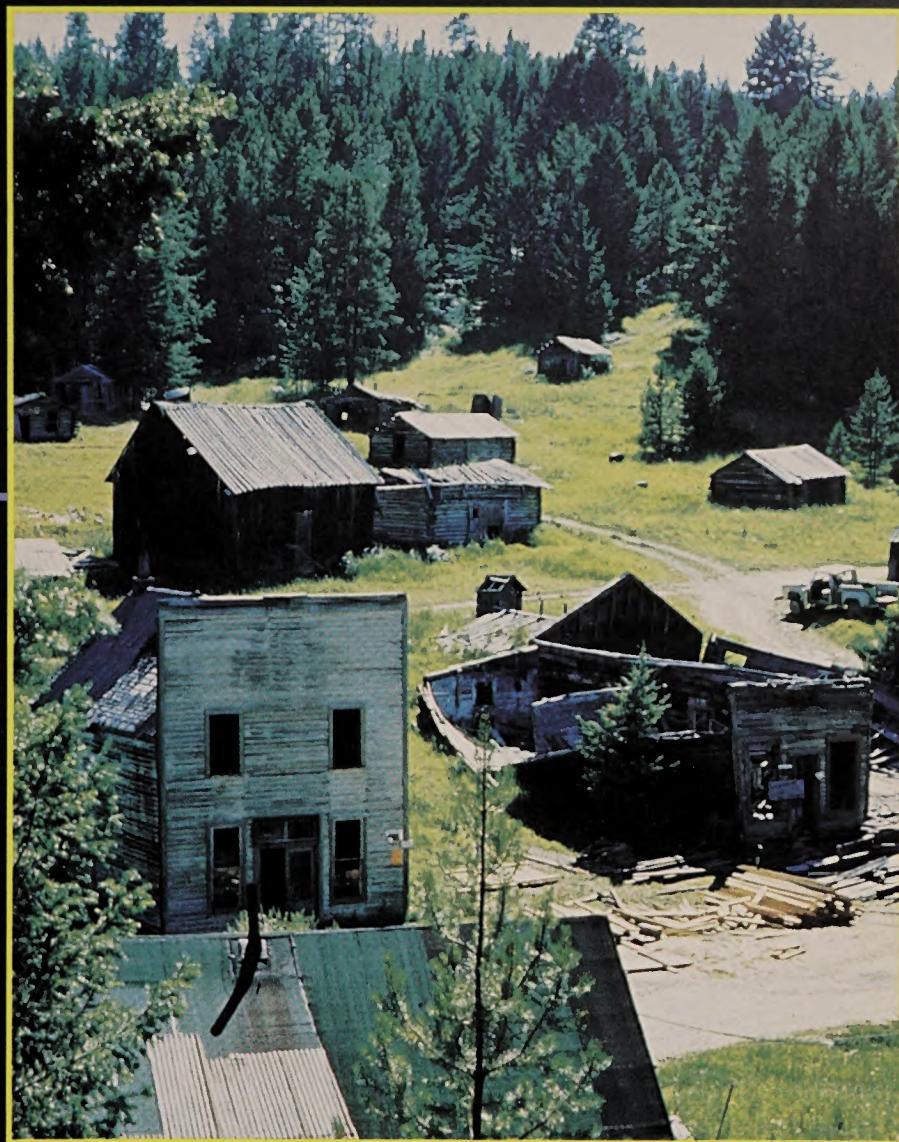
resources. More than 150,000 prehistoric and historic sites have been found on BLM lands. Under the stewardship of the BLM, this important cultural legacy is managed for its scientific, educational and recreational values.

CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

This legacy has been passed down into our care in the form of ancient stone tools and dwellings, dusty trails, crumbling and half-forgotten cabins, forts and mines. These are keys to unlocking Adventures in the Past — ours to wonder over, explore and enjoy.

"A few days later my eighth child was born . . . husband traded two yoke of oxen for a half section of land with one-half acre planted to potatoes and a small log cabin and lean-to with no windows. This is the journey's end."

Amelia Knight, early Oregon Pioneer



They are also ours to protect and preserve because the legacy is a fragile one and is disappearing at an alarming rate. Some cultural resources are lost through the inevitable process of erosion and decay. However, in spite of laws that authorize stiff penalties for illegal collecting, large numbers of sites and artifacts are being destroyed by willful scavengers for personal profit or by casual collectors who do not realize their actions are permanently tearing pages from our historical text, making the understanding of America's cultural heritage less than complete.

You can help. The vast expanse of the public lands makes it difficult for the BLM to adequately protect



this heritage. We need your cooperation by leaving artifacts in place and by not defacing or removing structures. Please be respectful and sensitive to these resources.

VOLUNTEERS

You can also become actively involved in preserving America's past. Volunteers form the backbone

of many cooperative projects on the public lands undertaken by the BLM with state and local governments, individuals, and public and private groups. Volunteers significantly expand BLM's capabilities in the areas of inventory, protection, and study of cultural resources on public land. If you are interested in volunteering to assist in expanding and preserving the legacy gained from cultural resources on the public lands, visit or call a BLM State Office near you.

Contact local BLM offices for more information on Cultural Resources on the Public Lands.

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